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To The Honourable the COMMONS' HOUSE *of* ASSEMBLY *of the Province of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament Assembled.*

The PETITION *of Sundry Merchants connected in the Forwarding Business, and Others, Inhabitants of the Town of Kingston.*

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT by an Act of the Provincial Parliament of the Province of Lower Canada, passed in the forty-eighth year of the reign of His late Majesty, King George the Third of glorious memory, intituled "An Act to provide a Permanent Fund for the Improvement "of the Inland Navigation of the river Saint Lawrence," the said Parliament of the said province of Lower Canada imposed certain rates or duties payable at Chateauquay on all Scows, Rafts, and Cribs, passing the Rapids between Chateauquay and Montreal, which said rates or duties were intended to be applied to the improvement of the Navigation of the river Saint Lawrence, between Lake Saint Francis and Montreal.

That in conformity to the said law, an Inspector of Scows and Rafts has, since its enactment, exacted the rates specified in the said law, on all Rafts and Scows which have passed Chateauquay, whether they belonged to the inhabitants of this province or to the inhabitants of Lower Canada.

That according to the printed statement of the public accounts of Lower Canada for the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one, the amount of rates levied by the said Inspector at Chateauquay, and remaining unexpended on the first day of November in the said year, amounted to Five Thousand Two Hundred and Three Pounds, Six Shillings and Seven Pence.

That of this large sum remaining locked up in the Treasury of Lower Canada, two-thirds have at least been paid by inhabitants of Upper Canada, who have thus been taxed without their concurrence, and without deriving any benefit from the monies so unjustly levied on the transit of their property to market.

That the Imperial Parliament, on being informed of this oppressive imposition, did, by the thirtieth section of an Act passed on the fifth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-two, entituled "An Act to regulate the Trade of the Provinces of "Lower and Upper Canada, and for other purposes relating to the "said Provinces," graciously provide, that the "productions of

"Upper Canada, should be permitted to be exported without "being made subject by any Act of the Province of Lower Ca-"nada, either directly or indirectly, to duties or impositions on their "arrival in that province, or in passing through the waters thereof," and also, that the "expense of improving the Navigation of the wa-"ters of the river Saint Lawrence shall in future be defrayed by "such measures, and in such proportions, as the arbitrators to be "appointed, under the provisions of the said Act, shall determine, "upon the prayer of either province."

Viewing, therefore, the rapid progress made towards the completion of the Erie Canal, and the danger of a great part of the produce from the western parts of this province being diverted from its natural market,—conceiving also, that the expenditure of the money levied by virtue of the aforesaid Statute of the Province of Lower Canada would materially improve the navigation of the river Saint Lawrence, and lessen the costs of transporting our more bulky productions to Quebec and Montreal,—and believing that the application of the said monies is to be regulated by Arbitrators, under certain provisions, your Petitioners respectfully intreat your Honourable House to adopt such measures for procuring the immediate expenditure of the said monies in improving our water communication with Lower Canada, as your Honourable House may think expedient:—And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

(Signed) THOMAS MARKLAND, and Others.

Kingston,
28th February, 1823.

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